Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals

Lucas State Office Building \$ Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0083 \$ (515) 281-7376

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: April 22, 2003 Contact: David Werning

(515) 281-7376

"Fraudulent Practice Case Successfully Prosecuted"

DAVENPORT, Iowa – The Scott County Attorney's Office announced the successful prosecution of two individuals for welfare fraud. Defendants Debra Susan Dirksen and Ray Johnny Kraklio pleaded guilty to three counts each of Fraudulent Practices First Degree. The defendants were each sentenced to indeterminate terms of 10 years each. The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) conducted the investigation, in cooperation with the Scott County Sheriff's Office and the Eldridge Police Department.

Scott County District Court Judge Mark Smith granted the defendants probation based upon the condition that they make restitution to the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) in the amount of \$124,461.51. The repayment is to occur at the rate of not less than \$12,000 per year until paid in full. Kraklio is the beneficiary of a trust fund that pays him at least that much each year. The Court ordered that the entire sum paid to Kraklio be applied to this debt.

"This conviction should serve as a message to all persons in Scott County that fraud in the area of Food Stamps, Family Investment Program (FIP) and Title XIX (Medical Assistance) will be vigorously investigated and prosecuted," Scott County Attorney William E. Davis said.

Editor's Note: For more information, contact the Scott County Attorney's Office at (563) 326-8600.